

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A method of fabricating a large flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said method comprising:

forming an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of fabric having a first circumference;

rendering said tubular structure impervious;

forming a front end and a rear end;

sealing said front end and said rear end;

providing means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo;

weaving, knitting or braiding at least one front end or rear end of the tubular structure, having a taper that terminates in a second circumference that is less than the first circumference.

30. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of weaving the tubular structure with warp and weft fibers or yarns and weaving the taper at said end by gradually eliminating warp yarns in a sequential manner as said end is woven.

31. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of weaving the tubular structure with warp and weft fibers or yarns and weaving the taper at said end by drawing in the warp yarns as said end is woven.

32. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of knitting the taper at said end by gradually dropping knitting needles during the knitting of said end to create the taper.

33. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of knitting the tubular structure.

34. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of braiding the taper at said end by adjusting the speed of the take up relative to the speed of the fiber or yarn that is being braided.

35. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of braiding the tubular structure.

36. (original) The method as described in claim 29 which includes the step of weaving, knitting or braiding the front end and the rear end with tapers.

Claims 37-43 (Cancelled)

44. (new) A large flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:

an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of fabric having a first circumference;  
said tubular structure being impervious;

a front end and a rear end being sealed;  
means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo; and  
wherein at least one front end or rear end of the tubular structure is formed by weaving, knitting or braiding in such a manner to have a taper that terminates in a second circumference that is less than the first circumference.

45. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a tubular structure having warp and weft fibers or yarns and the taper at said end is formed by gradually eliminating warp yarns in a sequential manner as said end is woven.

46. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a tubular structure with warp and weft fibers or yarns and the taper at said end is formed by drawing in the warp yarns as said end is woven.

47. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a knitted taper at said end formed by gradually dropping knitting needles during the knitting of said end to create the taper.

48. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a knitted tubular structure.

49. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a braided taper at said end formed by adjusting the speed of the take up relative to the speed of the fiber or yarn that is being braided.

50. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which includes a braided tubular structure.

51. (new) The vessel as described in claim 44 which comprises a woven, knitted or braided front end and the rear end with tapers.